

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE/MW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. DUBS

S/S-O - LRMACFARLANE

-----081346 160135Z /65

P R 152318Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, AF, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KARIM'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY, JULY 14

SUMMARY: DURING A COURTESY CALL BOTH THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR KARIM EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE STATE OF U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR KARIM EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE REGION. HE RECALLED THE AFGHAN REQUEST FOR A U.S. FINANCED HOSPITAL FOR KABUL AND MENTIONED THE RECENT REQUEST FOR PL 480 WHEAT. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED WARMLY, BUT WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR ABDUL WAHID KARIM PAID A HALF-HOUR COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY ON JULY 14. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS AND MCKEE (NEA/PAB) SAT IN. KARIM
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DWELLED AT LENGTH ON THE EXCELLENT CONDITION OF AFGHAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE "NEW ERA OF WISE LEADERSHIP" IN WASHINGTON. HE CONVEYED PRESIDENT DAOUD'S AND NAIM'S PERSONAL GREETINGS. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED IN KIND, URGING KARIM TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT DAOUD HIS HIGH REGARD FOR HIM. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER ABOUT THE LATTER'S

VISIT TO KABUL AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO FOLLOW SUIT WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF.

2. KARIM DESCRIBED HIS COUNTRY'S "SENSITIVE, SPECIAL," NON-ALIGNED GEOPOLITICAL POSITION. THE SECRETARY NOTED OUR RESPECT FOR THAT STANCE. AMBASSADOR KARIM POINTEDLY DENIED ANY UNDUE USSR INFLUENCE OVER PRESIDENT DAOUD, STRESSING HIS PATRIOTISM AND PIETY. KARIM ACKNOWLEDGED SOVIET MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE SAID AFGHANISTAN HAD NOT COMMENTED ON THE CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP IN ISLAMABAD BUT HAD HAD "BAD EXPERIENCES" WITH PREVIOUS PAKISTANI MILITARY GOVERNMENTS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION INVOLVING AN ACCORD ON THE HELMAND WATER DISPUTE WITH IRAN HAD RECENTLY BEEN EXCHANGED, CEMENTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH A MAJOR AID DONOR NATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S INQUIRY, KARIM ASSERTED THAT AFGHANISTAN'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS WERE STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT. HIS COUNTRY'S INTERNAL STABILITY HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND DAOUD'S OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP. IN THE REGION, PAKISTAN SEEMED LESS STABLE. HOWEVER, IF OUR PATHAN AND BALUCH BROTHERS ARE HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS, KABUL WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH ISLAMABAD. GIVEN STABILITY, AFGHANISTAN'S RESOURCES AND FOREIGN AID COULD BE MOBILIZED FOR DEVELOPMENT. KARIM STRESSED THE NEED FOR "TANGIBLE, HELP AND

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RECALLED THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. FINANCE A HOSPITAL FOR KABUL WHICH "THE PEOPLE CAN NOTICE." THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT ALL REQUESTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY BUT THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. AMBASSADOR KARIM RAISED AFGHANISTAN'S RECENT REQUEST FOR PL 480 WHEAT. MR. DUBS NOTED THAT INTERAGENCY CONSIDERATION HAD BEGUN AND WOULD PRESUMABLY PRODUCE EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ON A LESSER AMOUNT BECAUSE THE WHEAT WOULD HAVE TO BE SHIPPED PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

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TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, AF, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (KARIM, ABDUL WAHEED)
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